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PSYCHOLOGICAL LITERATURE.

Elements of General Philosophy. By GEORGE CROOM ROBERTSON, late Grote Professor, University College, London. Edited from notes of lectures delivered at the college, 1870-1892, by C. A. Foley Rhys Davids, M. A. New York, 1896. Charles Scribner's Sons.

This work is a brief *résumé* of philosophical problems and philosophical theories, written with definite reference to psychology. The original lectures were designed to complete the author's course in psychology, published by the same editor as "Elements of Psychology." The work is divided into two parts. The first contains a very short and concise history of philosophy, with an incidental treatment of the main problems of the different periods. Of these the theory of knowledge receives by far the greatest attention. In this connection there is given a complete though brief statement of the theories of the different thinkers from Plato to Mill and Bain. In summary the subjective, idealistic factor is resolved into the inherited mechanism of the body; the Kantian *à priori* is replaced by the experience of the race. This is very similar to Spencer's doctrine, but is more carefully worked out and more clearly formulated.

Another peculiar theory or rather peculiar reversion to an ancient doctrine is given in the discussion of the question of perception of an external world to explain the concept of substance. Prof. Robertson cannot believe that substance is but the sum of its attributes. It must be something more. This something more must be something mental like ourselves, because, as Berkeley has shown, dead matter has no meaning for us. But we cannot say with Berkeley that its perception by us is a sufficient explanation of the mental element. The attributes must themselves be held together by a mental activity. Here we find a return to the monads of Leibniz, rendered all the more striking by the generally modern tone of the work. The first part closes with two more special chapters, one on the normative sciences, logic, ethics and æsthetics, and their relation to each other and to psychology; the other on ethics in general.

In the historical exposition of this part the chief emphasis is laid upon the English philosophers. The entire account of the English school is masterly, and much more sympathetic and painstaking than the treatment usually accorded in the German works now recognised as standard. The second part supplements the first by a series of lectures on Plato, Aristotle, and the modern philosophers from Descartes to Kant.

The work as a whole furnishes the lay reader with a valuable and very readable statement of philosophical doctrine, and will give new points of view to the philosophical thinker who is unacquainted with Prof. Robertson's system. It is too brief and not

consecutive enough to find a place as a text-book. Mrs. Rhys Davids deserves great credit for the skill with which she has pieced together the materials at her disposal. To an unsuspecting reader the book would not betray the fact that it was not written at first hand. We can safely predict that it will continue the influence which the author exerted while living, and which would have undoubtedly been increased except for his untimely death.

W. B. PILLSBURY.

Immanuel Kant's Critique of Pure Reason. Translated into English by F. MAX MÜLLER. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1896, pp. xxvi, 808. Price, \$3.00.

Max Müller's translation of the Critique is too well known to need more than the mention of this new and cheaper edition. The back of the title page bears the legend, "First edition printed in 1881. Reprinted with alterations, 1896." The alterations from the two-volume edition of 1881 appear to be, as to matter, the omission of the translator's preface and the historical introduction by Noiré; and, as to form, the use of a smaller though very legible type and a slightly smaller page. These changes reduce the present volume to the text of Kant's first edition of the Critique and the supplements, which show the changes that were made in his second edition. Students of Kant will be grateful to the publishers for making this translation accessible at a reasonable price.

An Outline of Psychology. By EDWARD BRADFORD TITCHENER. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1896, pp. xiv, 352. Price, \$1.50.

In this book Prof. Titchener gives the substance of his university lectures to Sophomores and Juniors at Cornell. The work is written from "the traditional English standpoint," but its purpose is a brief and simple exposition of the newer experimental psychology. For such a task Prof. Titchener is singularly well qualified, having added to an Oxford B. A. and Leipzig Ph. D. a number of years of independent teaching and research. The book presents methods and results without the scaffolding of tables and details which have often added to the obscurity of the larger works. Extended criticism of the psychology of the work is reserved for a later number.

Von Darwin bis Nietzsche. Von DR. ALEXANDER TILLE. Naumann, Leipzig, 1895, pp. 241.

An interesting little work and highly anathematized by the highly orthodox. Like young Germany, the author swears largely by Nietzsche. Nietzsche, the erratic, the eccentric, the aphoristic and the modern oracular Zarathustrian, is for him the high-water mark of the tide which has been rising so steadily since Darwin's days. Spencer, Leslie Stephen, Wundt, Huxley, Fiske, Williams, Bebel and others are shown to be so many landscapes on the road to Nietzsche. The trend of thought is, of course, biological and evolutionary. The *Abermensch*, the Beyond-Man, is the continued goal. A race of laughing lions is coming, strong men full of deeds and vigor. The cry is not Repent! but the true Metanoia, change of life and conduct; not so much humility and penance, as Grecian valor and Roman *virtus*. A high aristocratic *Herrenclasse*, the product of natural selection is his ideal. Consumptives must not marry. Only the fittest must survive. "*Nicht nur fort sollst du dich pflanzen, sondern hinauf!*"

The author's historical portrayal is good. In the development of thought here presented there are hints for certain methodological